1568/1070.

A LETTER TO A LATE COMMANDER AND PRIVY COUNSELLOR.

CONTAINING

An Examination of FACTS not implied in the Charge of Disobedience of ORDERS.

Patremque sequitur haud passibus æquis. VIRGIL.

LONDON:

Printed for J. PRIDDEN, at the Feathers in Fleet-Street, near Fleet-Bridge, 1760.

BRITISH MUSEUM
30
74
APR

A

LETTER

TO THE

HONOURABLE **** ****** *********.

MY LORD,

IT cannot be unknown to you, that whoever renders himſelf liable to obloquy, in either private life or public conduct, muſt indiſputably become the general topic of converſation, to which every one is willing to furniſh matter, and in which numbers are fond to diſtinguiſh themſelves; nor can it be leſs unknown to your Lordſhip, that nothing goes ſwifter than a whiſper, or further than ſlander, eſpecially when reſpecting a gentleman of your late exalted ſtation. Poſ-

 ſeſſed

ſeſſed of this knowledge, which nobody preſumes to doubt, how extremely delicate ought you to have been in all your words, and how inceſſantly watchful over all your public conduct. Strange then, that you ſhould ſwerve from the dictates of your own reaſon, and ſo implicitly follow thoſe of a ſplenetic paſſion; the conſequences you have ſeen and felt, nor were they what you could be ignorant of, at leaſt if of any part of them you were ſo, it muſt have been of the mildneſs of the proceeding, which you could hardly expect, if you conſidered the treatment the late unfortunate Admiral met with. So recent an inſtance of the impartial execution of juſtice muſt blaſt in you every hope of favour; as well as intereſt in your behalf. This ſubject needs no expatiating upon, reflection, the worſt of tortures, will not only puniſh you for the errors of your paſt conduct, but joined with ſuſpicion, you imagine every body knows them, and expect every where to hear them talked of and repeated, for you are not quite abandoned to a ſtate of inſenſibility. His majeſty has granted you life, only that you may drag it out in miſery. This is a puniſhment worſe than death to him that has any ſenſe of honour. Life under theſe circumſtances is burthenſome and tedious, death would be a happy releaſe from ſuch like evils; evils which your own pride

pride has moſt induſtriouſly brought upon you, but which death itſelf cannot wipe from your memory. The ſhades of retirement are as diſagreeable as the buſy ſcenes of the town; for there, if you could, you may behold with envy, the honeſt, harmleſs peaſant chearfully purſuing his daily toil; but if perchance you attract his notice, how does he leer at you, and at night with his neighbours, how in his ruſtic jargon does he vaunt in deriſion of that great man who never condeſcended to look down on ſuch meaner objects but with eyes of contempt. How does he triumph? he exults, and thinks he does it in his turn, and glories in the opportunity.

Oh what a falling off is here!

Your town acquaintance forſake you, not caring to converſe with a man ſo contemptuouſly ſeen and treated. If a generous friend ſteps forth to ſhare in you ſufferings or chear the gloom of reflection; his reſolution is more than half checked when he conſiders for a moment your crime, and the few things antecedent. Ah, my Lord, you could not but know all this would come to paſs, ſhould your conduct deſerve any marks of diſgrace. How infatuated then muſt you be, thus conſcious of ill, to plunge yourſelf into miſery? When I mentioned

" the

" the few things antecedent." I did not mean the whole tenor of your conduct, I am not acquainted with every circumſtance of it, therefore cannot tell how far they may operate in your behalf, or be urged againſt you; but ſuch few circumſtances as I have heard, I ſhall beg leave to repeat to your lordſhip. Thoſe relative to the battle may be ſeen in the following remarkable letter.

Tranſlation of a Letter from Prince Ferdinand, *of* Brunſwic, *to his* *******.

" *Moſt Sacred!*

" THE enemy having called in all their ſmall detachments, this diſcovery engaged me to give the army, at five o'clock in the afternoon, orders to hold themſelves in readineſs to march at one o'clock in the morning, on the firſt of Auguſt, the cavalry, expreſly, to be ſaddled at that hour. I recommended it to all the advanced poſts to be very attentive, and to inform me of the leaſt motion they ſhould obſerve during the night. It paſſed without my receiving any intelligence. About three in the morning, M. De Reden, adjutant-general, informed me of the arrival of two deſerters, with the news, that the army of the enemy was marching to attack me,

me, and that they had paſſed the Marſh at midnight. Theſe deſerters came to Harpten, at ten o'clock in the evening; but notwithſtanding the importance of the news they brought, it did not reach me till towards three o'clock in the morning. That I might loſe no time, I ſent every aid-de-camp I had about me to the camp, in order to make the army move without the leaſt delay. I was obeyed with great readineſs, except by the cavalry on the right, which, not withſtanding my former orders, were not ſaddled; and of whom the conductor, Lord G----- S--------, did not come to his poſt till very late. According to my order of battle, the cavalry were on the wings, and the infantry in the centre. The enemy had, on the contrary, placed their cavalry in the centre, and their infantry on the wings. The Britiſh infantry attacked with an amazing intrepidity. The ſucceſs of it was ſo great, that the cavalry of the enemy, which was facing your brave infantry, was routed, and totally put in confuſion. This was the moment for the cavalry to have compleated the defeat of the enemy. I ſent my aid-de-camp, Captain Ligonier, to L--- G----- S--------, with orders to advance with the cavalry, in order to make the moſt of the advantages which the infantry had juſt obtained. My aid-de-camp, Captain Winſchingrode, was ſent by me to L---

G-----

G----- S--------, with a like commiſſion. My Lord feigned, at firſt, not to comprehend the orders which he carried: At length he ſeemed to give way to them, and concluded with doing nothing.

" Before Ligonier came back, the cavalry of the enemy had rallied, and returned to the charge, ſupported by the Saxon infantry, and a very briſk cannonade, which took your infantry obliquely in front, and directly in flank. Colonel Fitzroy was then ſent to L--- G------ S--------, to preſs him to advance, without loſs of time, to ſupport the infantry, which ſuffered; but he did nothing. Expecting, with reaſon, to find a diſpoſition in Lord Granby to diſtinguiſh himſelf, I ſent Colonel Webb to him with my orders to advance with the ſecond line of the cavalry; but L--- G----- S-------- hindered him, by ſtopping him from advancing. Colonel Fitzroy and Captain Ligonier returned, and told me, that the cavalry had not ſtirred one ſtep; that notwithſtanding my orders L--- G----- S--------, did not give credit to what they had told him; that he did not underſtand what they had ſaid; and that he would come and ſpeak to me himſelf. He came, and in ſhort found me; I repeated to him what Captain Ligonier and Colonel Fitzroy, had told him from me; but the cavalry never advanced near enough, either to gather

ther the laurels, which your infantry had prepared for them, or to protect them while they ſuffered. In ſhort, L--- G----- S-------, very far from repairing the fault, which the cavalry on the right had committed, in not being ſaddled at the appointed hour, and which he himſelf had committed; in not having remedied it in time, and alſo in his coming too late to his poſt; in not doubling his pace during his march, to regain the time he loſt alſo, and the greateſt opportunity which has, perhaps, ever exiſted, to acquire glory, which he was not only offered, but commanded to ſeize, the cavalry remained during the whole action, out of cannon ſhot. Toward the end of the action, the Duke of Richmond, went from me, with orders for L--- G----- S--------, to advance the cavalry to the edge of the marſh, which was executed. I confeſs, I cannot but think with great vexation, of the conduct of L--- G----- S-------, and I cannot but declare, on the contrary, the good opinion I had of Lord Granby, from the readineſs he ſhewed to execute my orders, by whomſoever they were brought; which leaves me no room to doubt, conſidering the favourable opportunity which the cavalry had to act in, that they would have rendered this victory as deciſive as any ever had been. If L--- G----- S-------, who had been inſenſible

to the fine opportunity which he had to acquire glory, was offended at the acknowledgement which I made in favour of Lord Granby, according to his manner, he could not avoid thinking it an indirect cenſure of his own particular conduct. He wrote me a letter, by which he thought proper to demand from me, to recal the compliments which I had made to Lord Granby. I anſwered him abſolutely in the negative. My L--- G----- S-------, then ſet himſelf about propagating many falſe reports in the army; which determined me, at laſt, to write to your Majeſty, on this particular ſubject. My L--- G----- S-------, a few days after my letter went off, received his recal. He then appeared to be ſtruck with it, and wrote me a letter to complain of his fate; ſince which, there has been no interview between him and me."

If it be true that the two deſerters mentioned at the beginning of this letter, were detained at Harpten from ten o'clock in the evening of the thirty-firſt day of July, till almoſt three next morning, to whom muſt their detention be imputed, but to your lordſhip, ſince it is well known that you was neareſt to that village, if not in poſſeſſion of it. What could be the motive of preventing ſuch important perſons immediate acceſs to the Prince at that criſis. Had

it

it not been for their previous information, late as it was, the allied army had been ſurprized, nay, in ſome meaſure it was ſo, for the corps of General Wangenheim, which was encamped the fartheſt from the Prince, was attacked unexpectedly by the Duke de Broglio, and without the knowledge of any other part of the army. The keeping theſe deſerters at Harpten, ſeems to have been of the utmoſt conſequence, ſince another half hour's detention there might have brought on the total ruin of the whole allied army. The Prince could not but look on this proceeding as prejudicial to his authority. Yet it ſeems he ſtifled his reſentment, willing to purſue the publick good, nor ſacrifice it to private animoſity. The army at his direction marched, and found the enemy ready to engage. The cavalry under your command however, ſtood ſtill, that has been proved, but here is an aſſertion which contradicts the witneſſes on your trial. " I " was obeyed with great readineſs except " by the cavalry on the right, which not- " withſtanding my former orders * were " not ſaddled, and of whom the com- " mander in chief did no come to his poſt " till very late." How is this to be reconciled with the evidence on your trial. Colonel Sloper ſays, " That at one o'clock in

* The cavalry to be ſaddled, and the men booted to hold themſelves to march at one o'clock.

" the morning the horſes were ſaddled and " the men booted, agreeable to orders re- " ceived the night before," which had been uſually given for near a fortnight preceding. Colonel Preſton too has depoſed to the ſame effect. Major Stubbs has ſaid, that when the troops were formed, he heard ſeveral of the officers ſay, where is Lord George Sackville? who is to lead the line? Other witneſſes have declared, that Lord George Sackville was the firſt officer at the head of the line. Now which are we to believe, Prince Ferdinand's letter, or the evidence? ſince one of them muſt be wrong. In regard to the hour of the cavalry's being being ſaddled, one is naturally led to credit the evidence, who we muſt ſuppoſe was an eye witneſs of it, which the Prince from his ſituation could not be; and therefore he might me miſinformed.

But in regard to your Lordſhip's not being at the head of the line till very late, is what we cannot poſitively ſatisfy ourſelves in, ſince the witneſſes contradict each other. If your Lordſhip was not there, it was your own neglect. If you was, the charge of *Diſobedience* is ſtronger againſt you, but there is little need of this, ſince the orders were all proved to have been delivered. Towards the latter end of the letter it is ſaid, that your Lordſhip deſired the compliments to Lord Granby might be re-

called

called. I cannot help obſerving, that your Lordſhip in this particular has deviated from the true character of a man of honour, who never endeavours to raiſe himſelf on another's merit, or envy any man the fame he juſtly acquires. This malignancy is what I ſhould never have expected in your Lordſhip, who ought from your dignified rank to ſet examples to others, examples of the niceſt honour and moſt virtuous conduct, for what is a Nobleman by birth, if he is not ſo by diſpoſition, his crimes multiply with his rank, and ſo they ought, or it would be giving a precedency to thoſe of an inferior rank, were they ſuffered to paſs unnoticed. "An exalted "birth, ſays an excellent writer, ſo far from "relaxing the bonds of duty, binds them "more ſtrongly; ſo far from unlooſing, it "doubles every tie of honour, and en-"hances every obligation to virtuous and "praiſe-worthy actions. Where theſe are "found, the nobility greatly brightens "every luſtre: where theſe are wanting, "the nobility of birth, only renders in-"famy more infamous." In how mean a light does that letter ſet you in the eye of the meaneſt ſoldier, almoſt an object of deteſtation. Had the principals of honour but glowed in your boſom, your own pride would not have ſuffered you to expreſs a ſentiment of that envy, ſo juſtly treated

with

with contempt, but excited you to have eclipſed that fame, by acquiring a more noble and ſuperior praiſe. But madneſs which ſeems to have urged you in time of action to do nothing, after it ſeems to have urged you to become odious and obnoxious, not only in the eyes of your Sovereign, but almoſt all his ſubjects. Could you imagine that your ſuperior rank would at any time recommend you to the royal favour, or or could you imagine it would influence the people in your behalf; you hardly could. You muſt certainly be ſenſible it would have the contrary effect, nor could you look for leſs than his majeſty's verifying the ſentence of the court-martial with this obſervation. "That officers being convinced, that neither high birth nor great employments can ſhelter offences of ſuch a nature." How invidious an imputation has the foregoing letter near its concluſion, the Prince ſays that when he anſwered your requeſt abſolutely in the negative, you ſet yourſelf about propagating many falſe reports in the army. Is it credible that this ſcurility is laid to you, or is it poſſible your Lordſhip ſhould exerciſe ſo mean an art of revenge; it was not enough you ſhould hate your rival, but muſt endeavour to depreciate the character of your ſuperior; happily you was called home, and happily thoſe reports died away with your departure.

This

This circumſtance of propagating reports, recalls to my memory another which happened here, I know not whether they were true, time has not yet diſcloſed that. It was ſaid that ſoon after your arrival at the army in Germany (1758) you found great fault at there not being proper magazines eſtabliſhed for the uſe of the Britiſh troops, and that they ſuffered greatly through the perverſeneſs of the Hanoverians, who would ſeldom permit them even a ſmall ſhare of proviſion or forage, but when they had a ſuperfluity. If this be true, your Lordſhip indiſputably was right to ſtand up in behalf of your ſuffering countrymen, nor can the commendations beſtowed on you on this account, be either too ſtrong or too many. But then, my Lord, how happens that a continuance of this miſunderſtanding ſhould ſubſiſt between you and the Prince after there were proper magazines eſtabliſhed for the uſe of the Britiſh troops, which we know was done, or why did Mr. H*nt*r go from England to ſettle them, and even after that time in moſt marches and encampments, there was a perpetual difference between the Britiſh and Hanoverian officers, what could be the meaning of all this? Was not your lordſhip by your inſtructions to hear all complaints, relieve all grievances, and puniſh all offenders among the Britiſh troops; to this you will doubtleſs anſwer,

anſwer, they were not to blame; then who were? If the Hanoverians, why did you not lay your complaint before the commander in chief? Or if he refuſed you an hearing, why had you not recourſe to the king? who you was ſure would not refuſe you. The whole is now laid to your Lordſhip's charge. It is ſaid that you created and promoted theſe differences by occaſionally laying hold of the moſt trifling occurrences and wreſting often from their original meaning to anſwer a purpoſe the moſt iniquitous and pernicious. This one would be apt to believe was the invention of ſome low illiberal mind, untinctured by the principle of honour, and a ſtranger to the noble paſſions of heroiſm and patriot zeal; but how great is our ſurprize when we hear it imputed to your Lordſhip, whoſe finiſhed education, known wiſdom, and illuſtrious birth, ſhould have taught you to deſpiſe ſuch low and ſordid animoſity, if your high rank of command had not. It appears a greater paradox how your Lordſhip in theſe deſcents from your uſual dignity, preſerved that ſupremacy you have always been ſo fond to maintain, for it is a maxim, that when we condeſcend to an equality with our inferiors, they always preſume above ourſelves. However, it is no very material article, your lordſhip's dexterity has always been admired as much as the three legs con-

conjoined in him, inſcribed *Quocunque ſcieris ſtabo*. I remember to have ſeen ſomewhere an odd compariſon of a man remarkable for having been involved in many ſcrapes and perplexities, and always extricating himſelf, to a cat thrown from the top of a houſe in twenty different attitudes, and always lighting on its feet. I am afraid, this was not your Lordſhip's caſe in the end, though it might in the beginning, and an uninterrupted ſeries of years; but in this laſt fall, I more than ſuſpect you light upon your back----I cannot omit obſerving, and I preſume your Lordſhip will not omit reading, that a more improper perſon for a ſubordinate officer could hardly have been found than your Lordſhip; and it is nothing leſs than aſtoniſhing that your Lordſhip ſhould be the man pitched upon for that command; for even ſuppoſing the difference between the prince and you never to have ſubſiſted, it is queſtioned by ſome of the officers, whether the movements of the cavalry on the day of battle, would have been any other than they were, meaning the diſreſpect ſhown to the commander in chief, by a poſitive and haughty temper. Your Lordſhip ſhould have recollected the poet.

Of all the evils which conſpire to blind
Man's erring judgment, and miſguide the mind,
What the weak head the ſtrongeſt rules,
Is pride.

It ſeems however to corroborate with Colonel Sloper's evidence, that part where he ſays, your Lordſhip was alarmed to a very great degree. If you was determined not to move, it ſeeems, as if you was *afraid* to do it. Colonel Sloper goes further, he ſaid to Colonel Ligonier, " you " ſee the condition he is in," and he anſwered " YES." It is true, your Lordſhip produced ſeveral witneſſes to invalidate this teſtimony, that they depoſed they ſaw nothing in your Lordſhip's countenance different from what they ſaw at other times. But then it ſhould be remembered, there were as many witneſſes to ſupport Colonel Sloper's evidence: They were ready to depoſe " they remarked your confuſion to be " very great." All this your Lordſhip ſaid, was *matter of opinion*; it was ſo; and therefore you earneſtly inſiſted on their not being examined; and you was indulged.

But here alſo it muſt be obſerved, that when the witneſſes for the crown were examined, as to matters of opinion, ariſing from facts, they declined giving their anſwers, except when they were favourable to

to your Lordſhip: To decline giving any other anſwers, affords a ſtrong preſumption, that when they were ſilent their opinions were againſt you, ſince they were never checked from ſaying any thing in your favour; ſo that we cannot ſuppoſe they with-held any thing of that ſort. Does not this plainly prove the mildneſs of the proceeding, and the candour of your judges. They withdrew to conſider, whether the witneſſes in ſupport of Colonel Sloper's evidence ſhould be examined; and after a ſhort debate, it was reſolved they ſhould not, as it might materially operate with the charge.

Surely your Lordſhip forgets this part of the proceeding, when you ſpeak of the partiality of the court: One would wonder at your Lordſhip's imprudence in this particular. Can you expect the people will hear you, or if they do, pay any regard to ſuch an aſſertion. There was a time, my Lord, when you deſpiſed the voice of the people as unworthy your leaſt notice; but now the time is, that you are more odious to them, than ever they could be to you. However, this mighty change cannot be called an unexpected one, ſince it has been ſeveral years looked for, and therefore did not create ſo much aſtoniſhment in the beginning, as otherwiſe it might have done. It would be an endleſs and invidious taſk

to lay before your Lordſhip all the obſervations that have been made on your conduct; but as they all tend to the ſame meaning in the concluſion, I ſhall repeat it, "That your Lordſhip was a very improper perſon to have been an officer "at all;" which has been confirmed by the ſentence of the Court-Martial, and approved by his Majeſty. It is true, the publick are often erroneous in their judgments; but this is an inſtance, that they are not always ſo; nay, how could they in a caſe ſo apparent?

My Lord, you may think it temerity in a perſon unknown, to aſſign any reaſons why his Majeſty ſhould ſtrike you off the liſt of privy counſellors. But I think a man unknown the moſt proper to declare his ſentiments on ſuch an affair for ſeveral reaſons, two of which I will give, firſt, becauſe he is not afraid of offending, and therefore will ſpeak freely. Secondly, it is a ſubject not fit for every public converſation, and therefore few chuſe to ſpeak of it there. I am glad not ſo much for being unknown, as for the opportunity I have to convey to your Lordſhip my ſentiments on this part of your ſentence, which ſeems to have no connexion with that in conſequence of diſobedience of orders. His Majeſty, by this laſt mark of his diſpleaſure, has indiſputably thought you a very improper perſon

ſon to preſide in his councils. That ſubordinate officer who refuſes to obey the juſt and neceſſary commands of his ſuperior, appointed by his Sovereign, can in no wiſe be fit for his Sovereign's council. A diſobedience of orders, is but one degree below a revolt. Times have been when thoſe who refuſed to obey orders, were held not as contumacious vaſſals, but as rebels and traitors; and the puniſhments inflicted on them were the ſame. It would be unreaſonable to imagine his Majeſty ſhould continue the perſon in his councils, who has refuſed to act conſiſtent with the dignity of his employments. At firſt ſight, one would think it was diſaffection that inſtigated you to act in this preſumptuous manner. But if we may believe a perſon who ſpoke with applauſe, it was otherwiſe. " As to diſaffection," ſays he, " there does not appear to be the leaſt " colour for ſuch an imputation. In ſhort, " the ſuppoſition leaſt injurious to your ho- " nour, is to conclude that national pride " and private animoſity againſt your chief " prompted your diſobedience; and diſ- " poſed you rather to ſeek an opportunity " of caſting a reproach on your ſuperior, " by cavilling at his orders, than of ſig- " nalizing yourſelf, and promoting the ge- " neral cauſe." Admitting this ſuppoſition, even that diſqualifies your being a privy

counſello; ;

counſellor; therefore it is not to be wondered at, that your Lordſhip is blotted out of that right honourable liſt. A perſon wilfully guilty of ſuch an offence as your Lordſhip has been found, cannot be a proper man to ſit in the council chamber. The affront which you have offered to your ſovereign, in refuſing to protect thoſe dominions ſo dear to him, is a ſufficient juſtification to his taking ſuch a ſtep. Had your loyalty, my Lord, been what it ought, at the very thoughts of theſe dominions, ſo naturally dear to your aged ſovereign, and ſuffering on account of this kingdom, your breaſt had glowed with emulation and revenge, to engage thoſe mercileſs ſpoilers. Had you obeyed thoſe orders, which bid you lead to glory,---you had been ſtill a privy counſellor. Had this been your ardour, my Lord, happy had it been for numbers who ~~are now~~ made wretched. " Had orders been ſent forbid-
" ding you to charge, or for recalling you
" from a purſuit. Had your ſuperior out
" of reſentment enviouſly tied your hands
" to prevent your plucking wreaths of lau-
" rel, we might indeed, have conjectured,
" that you would dare to diſobey, and
" though a Roman ſeverity would have
" condemned you for ſuch diſobedience,
" yet your countrymen would have ab-
" ſolved you." But no ſuch fires were kindled

kindled in your breaſt. How were we deceived! "We hoped, that glory was "the ſole ruling principle which engaged "you to quit a ſafe and honourable ſtation "at home for the toils and dangers of a "diſtant war. You knew the hardſhips "and perils to which you muſt be ex-"poſed before you undertook the charge. "On the other hand, you might be ſen-"ſible of the luſtre which your character "would receive from your ſhining ſer-"vices, and be aſſured of the diſtinguiſh-"ed acknowledgments which your grate-"ful countrymen would pay to your high "deſerts." Were theſe not motives ſufficient to inſpire you; or was it impoſſible to awaken in your breaſt any of thoſe ſeeds of virtue and honour, which eminently and ſucceſſively diſtinguiſhed your anceſtors. Could Fame with her trumpet, but wake the illuſtrious dead, how would they ſtand aghaſt to hear thy wondrous tale! How wonld they glow with indignation! nay almoſt curſe the hour, that made thee heir to ſuch a name like theirs. When it is ſaid, that three Britiſh regiments were almoſt cut to pieces by the enemy, while their commander with the cavalry of their country kept aloof, and refuſed them that aſſiſtance which their ſituation ſo preſſingly requeſted. Who can hear this without remorſe! without exclaiming againſt

againſt him in the moſt bitter terms, or without pitying thoſe brave men, who tho' unaided, reſolved their country ſhould not ſuffer through any miſconduct of theirs, and gloriouſly fell in the arms of victory. "Learn hence!" may ſay the ſhade, "If "thou haſt any feeling, mourn the loſs "of thoſe gallant fellows, who will here- "after riſe up in judgment againſt you: "Think you not their blood will fix in- "delible ſtains on your conſcience. Know "*proud* mortal, that publick virtue is of "all virtues the moſt ineſtimable. Your "effeminate and unmanly life had almoſt "produced an increaſe *of low ſpirits and* "*nervous* diſorders, whoſe natural and un- "alterable character, is that of *fear*, while "your notion of delicacy like the faſhion- "able world, effectually diſqualified you "from *enduring toils*, or *facing danger*. "The debility of your modern honour, "makes you, that you cannot produce one "ſpark of manly ſpirit. Alas, if you have "any courage, it never enters into action "beyond the vanity of ſhew. Sometimes "indeed, it is rouzed by an affront and--- "then it dies in a duel. This is your mo- "dern honour, ſhame on you."

Would not this affect you, my Lord? Are you ſo doubly hardened and caſe hardened, that the venerable ſhade with this and ten times more, cannot force a way to your heart?

heart? or is it locked up from every ſenſe of ſhame and humanity? No, you muſt feel, if you be penetrable; feel the wounds of tortures, an afflicted conſcience. It would be well if you could hide yourſelf in ſome dark corner, ſituated in the remoteſt part of the world, where you might be unheard of and unſeen; for here your name is odious to many patriots. What your memory might be, is unknown, but perhaps that too would be ſuffered to decay. To Geneva then, my Lord, there can be no better place. You are free from the ſcaring ſounds of drum or cannon; no hoſtile feet approach: But as the old poet ſays,

Where peace, content, and happineſs doth dwell,
Pleaſure and eaſe, ſolidity of mind;
Say if the field, can ſuch an heav'n fulfil,
Or courts or armies ſuch a bliſs can find.

So very neceſſary is it, my Lord, that you ſhould retreat from the world, that I would adviſe you to make no attempt at the enſuing election, to continue your ſeat in parliament; for it will be only adding one diſaſter to another: There is no probability of your carrying your point; and this mortification added to your diſgrace, will only ſerve to make your load of miſery heavier, by ſtirring up the remembrance

of your late behaviour *which has ſtunk ſo abominably in the noſtrils of the nation.* What friend to patriotiſm will give you his vote? What friend to his country will give a vote to him who has injured it ſo much? If it be aſked how, let the relation of the battle of Minden be read, and then it will be known how. On that battle, my Lord, ſtood your faireſt hope; why then did you blaſt it, to undergo a ſhame like this? The Britiſh Senate ought to conſiſt of patriots, and I hope it does: Then dare you preſume to ſit there, who have proved yourſelf not to be a patriot, by refuſing to aſſiſt your countrymen in the day of battle? by refuſing to obey the commands of your ſuperior appointed by your Sovereign? Is he a patriot, who acts thus? Does not ſuch a proceeding border upon mutiny, or is it cowardice? If we judge from the lenity of your ſentence, we cannot call it either, ſince they are both capital offences. But it is ſaid, that this lenity aroſe from your being no longer a military gentleman. " It remained a matter " of controverſy, how far you, as no " longer in the ſervice, were eligible to " any other puniſhment than that which " is inflicted upon you. How much " is your Lordſhip beholden both to the " lenity of the court, and that quibble in " the law, which rendered the execution

" of

" of a ſeverer ſentence doubtful." Under this ignominy, will you preſume to ſit in the Honourable Houſe of Commons? A houſe filled by the repreſentatives of the people, elected by the people's own voluntary choice? Will you preſume to ſuch an election? Would you attempt to appear at the bar of the huſtings, and ſuffer one of your friends to demand a poll? The right of chuſing repreſentatives, is one of the greateſt liberties, this nation has to boaſt of. Then can you who deceived the people as a General, ſtrive to impoſe on them as a Senator.----You ſurely cannot. If you are unfit to ſerve his Majeſty as a privy-counſellor, you are alſo unfit to ſerve the nation as one of its repreſentatives. I mean by this compariſon, that ſince his Majeſty has thought proper to order your name to be ſtruck off the liſt of his privy couſellors, the nation will follow the laudable example, in not ſuffering your name to be on the liſt of its repreſentatives. When once the members are returned, and they find that they have no longer any dependence on the electors, they act according to their own diſpoſitions, and are as deſpotick as the French king, and regard their promiſes, juſt as as he does his treaties. I do not ſay, my Lord, this is your caſe; but it has been but too frequently that of others. That ſervant is

always ſuſpected, that has once deceived his maſter. We had formed great expectations from your military capacity, adhering to the ſcripture, *Where much is given, much is required*, and juſt when our expectations were to be ſatisfied, they were diſappointed in the moſt mortifying manner; having been thus once deceived, ſhall we run a ſecond riſk? Is it prudent that we ſhould hazard our liberties after having ſeen the lives of our countrymen thrown away? No, what Engliſhman will ſay it is. But there is a way of thruſting men into parliament by intereſt only, and we have that infamous way ſometimes practiſed among us. It is done by bribery and corruption; two hideous names, and often ſet in the moſt terrible light. It is true, our conſtitution is ſo happily formed, that it is almoſt impoſſible to overthrow it by ſuch practiſes; yet they are encroachments upon the rights of the people, who cannot but look on them as a grievance. Though we differ in condition from the Romans of old, yet their liberties ſeem to have been built upon as ſure a foundation as ours. The election of their great officers was in the people: With us, ſome of them are appointed by the Prince, and others by the people, by whom a man may be deteſted, yet employed in their buſineſs, and enrich himſelf at their expence. The Romans,

mans, as ſoon as bribery was employed in the elections of magiſtrates, were undone; and if a vicious man would endeavour to obtain a ſeat in parliament, it is only bribing the electors, and they will ſerve him. When men arrive at favour and intereſt, by ſome eminent ſervice done their country, things go well; but when little knaves, who have nothing but impudence and addreſs to recommend them, find means of giving laws to a nation, if ſomething as bad as Ægptian bondage ſhould not follow, it would be ſtrange. The only means to avoid any diſaſters of this kind, is to keep ſuch perſons out of parliament, which can be no other way effected, than by exhorting the electors to deſpiſe ſuch candidates. Men who are almoſt loſt to every ſenſe of honour, abandoned to the meaneſt principles, and actuated only by a ſpirit of ambition, not of doing good; but making themſelves conſpicuous by oppoſing every profitable meaſure, eſpecially when for the honour and intereſt of their country, by whom they pretend to have been ill uſed, and therefore, ſeek every opportunity to oppoſe its welfare. Is there an Engliſhman who would be the friend of ſuch a man? The friends of liberty will deſpiſe him, and treat him with the contempt he deſerves. Be cautious, my Lord, and conſider, whether your conduct does not in

ſome

ſome meaſure claſh with the friends of liberty. If it does, attempt not to pull more miſery on youſelf, and even if it ſhould not, it will be beſt to be quiet, and like a prudent gameſter who ſits down with his loſs, rather than put his laſt reſource to the hazard. Your Lordſhip would profit more by following thoſe pleaſures and duties of domeſtic life, which better agree with your conſtitution. In the country, you will have leiſure to give your thoughts a better turn than purſuing your own ruin to the very gates of deſtruction, which muſt inevitably have been the caſe one time or other, had you been permitted to continue that conduct, which by being noticed, has prevented more fatal conſequences. You may in ſolitude review your whole conduct, and then reflect how truly conſiſtent it is with the character of a man of honour, and a friend to his country. Both of which we thought you had been, and in both of which we are deceived. It would be wiſer to make no attempt that may awake the remembrance of any part of this conduct, but ſuffer it, if it will, to ſleep in oblivion, and die in obſcurity, for want of recollection. A fruſtrated attempt! for it can be nothing more, will be adding diſgrace to diſgrace, and inſult to inſult. What greater piece of folly can a man purſue

than

than his own defamation? Avoid that, my Lord, and you will do well. You may reaſonably expect that you will loſe your ſeat in parliament, therefore make no efforts to retain it, but calmly reſign it: ſuch a proceeding will do you honour, as it will ſhew your modeſty, and that you can bear the ſmiles and frowns of fortune with the patience of a philoſopher. Happy in your ſhade, ſurrounded by tranquility and peace, unſeen and unheard, live in ſolitude, and the world will envy your retreat and repoſe. But if you follow the dictates of that haughty perſevering pride, which has been your downfall, expect to ſink lower, one diſaſter will follow another, till the whole is terminated, perhaps not by death, but total ruin, which is worſe: For a man had better be out of his miſery at once, than linger out life in perpetual pain. Your Lordſhip may doubtleſs think, you will ſucceed in your attempt, but you may be miſtaken, as you was in your expected *honourable* acquittal by the C--- M----. We may imagine this upon the ſtrongeſt preſumptive proof, that no man would knowingly run himſelf into the jaws of danger. If you had not expected an honourable acquittal, you would not have ſo earneſtly ſollicited a trial. But the evidence went againſt you, and the Court proved you guilty of the charge:

His

His Majeſty confirmed the ſentence, and at the ſame time, your opinion of having loſt his eſteem. Would you have ſollicited a trial, could you have foreſeen all this. We believe not. It is as poſſible, or rather more probable, ſince there is the royal precedence, that the next attempt you make, which can hardly be any thing more than continuing your ſeat in parliament, you will be again diſappointed and mortified with a mangled repetition of your formidable diſaſter. This will be an attack on your weakeſt ſide, where you can make but a feeble defence; for however innocent, you may imagine yourſelf to be, the people will not be eaſily brought to believe ſo. They believe as the C--- M----- did, and you may be aſſured of meeting them as your enemies. They are not indeed martial ones; not like thoſe you ſhould have faced on the heath near Minden: They are civil, but nevertheleſs formidable; they are innumerable, and their ſtrength beyond compariſon: Therefore who but madmen would pretend to oppoſe them. It would be madneſs in your Lordſhip, ſince you are the very object of their hatred. Thoſe who ſtile themſelves patriots, are your moſt inveterate and avowed enemies: And every elector is a patriot, at leaſt thinks himſelf ſo. Upon a ſerious reflection on the

whole

whole matter, I dare ſay your Lordſhip will find it moſt prudent to lie ſtill. If you could but once be brought to this opinion, it were well; but whilſt you ſuffer your meddling talents to be perpetually on the rack for ſome new invention to work up a remembrance of your former diſgraces, they at length, become implanted on our memory, and death only can wipe them away. The effects of quietude and ſolitude will not ſo ſuddenly ſhew themſelves; for as the proverb ſays, though "a good name "goes far and ſwift," yet a bad one exceeds it; but they will every day be gaining ſtrength, while rancour and animoſity, will in proportion decay; and at length, be buried in obſcurity.

I am,

My Lord,

Yours, &c.

FINIS.

Juſt publiſhed, Price one Shilling,

By J. PRIDDEN, Bookſeller, at the Feathers, in Fleet-Street.

THE MEMOIRS

Of the preſent celebrated

Mareſchal Duke de BELLEISLE,

Secretary at War to the French King, and Prince of the Empire.

CONTAINING

Several curious Anecdotes relating to Monſieur de Foquet his Grandfather. Several new Lights on the Conduct of the late War; particularly with regard to the King of Pruſſia. His remarkable Negotiations and Retreat from Prague. His Behaviour while a Priſoner in England. His intimacy with the Marchioneſs de Pompadour, and ſeveral uſeful Hints on the conduct of the preſent War, tending to unravel ſome myſteries in it. Concluding with an Account of his Elevation to the Office of Secretary at War, and the elegant Speech he made on that Occaſion.

Tranſlated from the FRENCH of M. de BOISSI.